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Saudia offices bombed, 1 killed

KARACHI (AP) — Bombs shattered two offices of the Saudi Arabian national airline on Tuesday, and officials of the hotel housing one office said one person was killed. One bomb went off in the Saudia Airlines district finance office and the other demolished the airline's office in the nearby Taj Mahal Hotel. The blasts started small fires, and firefighters and police cordoned off both areas. Police officials declined to provide any information on casualties. Hotel officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one person was killed and two others were injured in the blast at the Taj Mahal Hotel. The explosion at the airline's finance office sent pieces of jagged glass shooting into the street, injuring a man working at a nearby gasoline station, eyewitnesses said. The finance office was closed at the time of the explosion.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
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Berne talks end with no accord

BERNE (AP) — A 35-nation, six-week conference on improving East-West personal contacts and human rights ended Tuesday after the United States vetoed a compromise accord that all its European allies were ready to accept. Michael Novak, the chief U.S. delegate, told the final session the proposed document was "too thin, containing loopholes damaging to compliance." The other Western delegations, while acknowledging the document was weak, said it would have meant some progress. It was the first time the United States came out against all its European allies at a major human rights meeting. The document was drafted by Austria, Switzerland and other neutral and non-aligned European nations to try to bridge the gap between Western and East bloc proposals for facilitating reunification of divided families and other contacts between people. Rolf Torovsky, the Austrian chief coordinator of the neutral group, expressed regret at the U.S. move, which he said remained "incomprehensible" to him.

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King visits Mafrq today

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday, continues his visits to various parts of the Kingdom by visiting Mafrq Governorate. The King visited Zarqa and Tafleeh earlier this week. During his visit to Mafrq city, the King will attend a people's rally at the industrial secondary school in which a number of the governorate's personalities will deliver speeches on various issues. Mafrq, which became a governorate recently along with Zarqa and Tafleeh, is divided into four administrative units in an area 26,600 square kilometres in which 100,000 people live.

Jordan honours U.S. students

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Ra'ed bin Zaid, the chief chamberlain, Tuesday distributed awards and certificates to 12 students from the U.S. Ambassador University who have participated in helping the handicapped in Jordan. The ceremony, which was held at the Nazek Al Hariri Centre for Special Education, was attended by Her Highness Princess Mafraq and centre officials. The 12 volunteers from Ambassador University helped the handicapped in various centres in the Kingdom by teaching them reading and writing and giving them vocational training as well as participating in various social programmes with them.

Italy prepares 14 warrants for Arabs

ROME (RT) — A Rome magistrate has signed arrest warrants for a group of Palestinians, including guerrilla leader Abu Nidal, in connection with an attack on Rome airport and a series of other actions, police sources said Tuesday. Seventeen people died in the airport attack. Police said Magistrate Rosario Priore was expected formally to announce in the next few days warrants involving some 14 people on charges of participating in an armed band.

See related story on page 2

8 Britons held in Zimbabwe

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe has detained eight Britons following last week's South African military raids on alleged bases of the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla group. Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday. They said no charges had been laid against the eight, and the British high commission (embassy) in Harare was in touch with the Zimbabwean government and lawyers over the detentions.

Kuwaiti deputies stage walk-out

KUWAIT (AP) — A group of Kuwaiti parliament deputies walked out en masse Tuesday in protest against a government bid to hold a closed-door discussion of the independence of the judiciary. A total of 24 deputies, led by Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Saud, left the assembly building at the onset of the discussions, complaining that secrecy was unjustifiable and unprecedented.

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S. Arabia may turn to East bloc for arms, official says

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia, disenchanted by the U.S. Congress reluctance to sell it defensive weaponry, could turn to Eastern bloc countries for anti-aircraft and anti-ship missiles, one highly-placed Saudi official said Tuesday.

"The kingdom is not particularly concerned over the current controversy over the (missile) deal," a confidant of Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz told the Associated Press. "We've placed a request with the U.S. administration. If they agree, fine. We pay and receive the missiles."

"If the deal is blocked, then we can acquire whatever we need at any time and from any country of our choice, irrespective of whether we are bound to that country with diplomatic relations."

"This was obviously an allusion to the Soviet Union and the rest of the Socialist bloc powers, with which Saudi Arabia has so far refused to have diplomatic ties."

At issue is a \$354-million sale of 1,066 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles along with 100 ship-to-ship Harpoon missiles, and 800 shoulder-fired anti-aircraft Stinger missiles.

The move was designed to bolster President Ronald Reagan's bid to win congressional approval for the deal, said the Saudi official, who refused to be identified by name.

Mr. Reagan was forced to veto congressional rejection of the deal and has been seeking 33 to 34 votes to sustain his veto when Congress reconvenes June 5.

Opponents of the sale contended Saudi Arabia was the financial backer of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, claiming that the kingdom has obstructed the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Western diplomats here said total value of arms contracts with

the United States since 1978 is approximately \$26.7 billion. They said that some of that value may have gone to foreign sub-contractors on construction jobs.

In light of the massive relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States in arms purchases, the current missile sale is by itself not too significant. But Saudi officials, U.S. businessmen and diplomats said the missile sale, is important because of the direction it points for the consideration of the delivery of the \$8.5-billion Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) radar planes, and the United States' reliability as a friend of the kingdom.

The congressional approval of the AWACS sale took note of Mr. Reagan's 1981 letter to the then Senate majority leader asserting that Saudi Arabia would contribute to the Mideast peace process.

U.S. diplomats here said Mr. Reagan was to certify to Congress that these conditions have been met, before the AWACS can be delivered.

The first of the AWACS aircraft is to be delivered late June, and the rest in August, October, December this year and March 1987.

(Continued on page 2)

Thatcher ends visit to Israel with call for alternative to PLO

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher ended a visit to Israel on Tuesday after urging that Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza be allowed to elect representatives to serve in peace talks.

"I tried in every way I could to persuade one branch of the PLO to renounce terrorism and accept Israel's right to exist as a basis for negotiations," she told a press conference.

"If we cannot do that, we mustn't give up hope. We must

find others who truly represent the Palestinian people," she said.

Her statement appeared to indicate a change in British policy, shared by its European partners, that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must play a role in the Middle East peace process.

Mrs. Thatcher offered no peace plan during the four-day official visit but suggested to Israeli leaders they allow Palestinians in the occupied regions to elect mayors for the first time since 1976 in an effort to foster a new Palestinian leadership.

(Continued on page 4)

Sofaer: Problems remain in Taba talks

CAIRO (AP) — A few obstacles are holding up agreement between Israel and Egypt on terms of international arbitration of a border dispute, a U.S. government intermediary said Tuesday.

State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer gave the assessment to reporters after a meeting with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, the fourth in as many days.

Mr. Sofaer attended last week's inconclusive round of Egyptian-Israeli talks at Heratya, Israel, on Taba, a one-square-kilometre beach area overlooking the Gulf of Aqaba.

Disagreement was reported to have centred on the wording of the question to be put to international arbitrators regarding Taba's ownership.

The United States has attended the Taba talks since they began shortly after Israel completed withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula in April 1982 under a treaty it signed with Egypt three years earlier.

"We are now going to collect our thoughts... and there will be more discussions to try to overcome the few remaining obstacles that exist," said Mr. Sofaer, who arrived in Cairo last Friday.

He said he planned to fly to Israel Tuesday and would return here later.

Nabil Al Arabi, Egypt's chief Taba negotiator who attended Mr. Sofaer's talks with Mr. Abdul Meguid, said the American official "presented new proposals and we gave Egypt's reply to them. We are now awaiting the outcome of his talks in Israel."

Neither Mr. Sofaer nor Mr. Arabi would give details.

8 killed, 60 injured in Bourj Al Barajneh

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Eight people were killed and about 60 wounded in fighting between Palestinians and Shiite militiamen at Beirut's biggest Palestinian refugee camp, security sources said Tuesday.

The 15-hour battle raged off late Monday night at Bourj Al Barajneh camp where the area was hit by artillery fire from inter-militia fighting on the nearby "green line" battlefield.

Sources in the Shiite Amal militia told Reuters three of the dead were hit by green line fire.

Palestinian sources quoted by Reuters said a seven-year-old was among three people killed inside Bourj Al Barajneh, one of three West Beirut camps ringed by Amal fighters.

In a separate incident on Monday, a mother and son were killed and five people injured when a bomb exploded in front of a lift in a building in mostly Christian east Beirut.

It was east Beirut's third bomb blast in three days.

The "Lebanese Forces" militia of President Amin Gemayel's right-wing Falange Party blamed Syria for the bomb.

Day-long artillery battles escalated at sundown, when Amal men pounded Bourj Al Barajneh with 106-mm recoilless guns, mortars and multi-barrelled rocket launchers. The Palestinians fired back with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

Each side accused the other of triggering off the gunbattles that persisted despite five ceasefire calls by a coordination committee in charge of west Beirut's security.

Earlier other sources said the break was a last resort being considered among a series of measures aimed at persuading East Germany to back down on the order that allied diplomats here show passports rather than diplomatic cards at the East-West Berlin border.

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His Majesty King Hussein confers with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in a meeting attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (second from right) and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (right) during a visit he made to Baghdad Monday night. The King, the prime minister, the court minister and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri who also attended the meeting, returned to Amman late Monday (Petra photo)

Assad meets Greek premier

ATHENS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu discussed guerrilla violence and other problems of the Eastern Mediterranean during four hours of talks on Tuesday. Mr. Papandreu told reporters the talks were conducted in a "very friendly atmosphere. They were particularly useful for us and I hope also for them."

Asked by reporters if the two discussed terrorism, Mr. Papandreu said: "We could not have avoided talking about terrorism. It is an everyday issue."

Mr. Assad, who arrived on Monday on a three-day official visit, Monday night denounced the U.S. raids on Libya. Diplomats said his visit was partly to discuss the dangers of any American or Israeli strike at Syria, which the two accuse of supporting terrorism.

Mr. Assad also said United States and Israel were using counterterrorism as a pretext for armed attacks which threaten to turn the world into a battlefield.

The 55-year-old Syrian leader made the charge during a banquet speech Monday.

"This dangerous phenomenon of using armed attacks to realise political aims is a warning to the world that it will be turned into a battlefield in the grip of those who see that they have the capacity to attack and at the same time avoid punishment," Mr. Assad said in his speech.

"That's what the United States did with its armed attack on Libya and that's what Israel is doing in South Lebanon and all the occupied Arab lands and that's what (South Africa) is doing in the countries of southern Africa," he said.

Mr. Assad said his government opposed terrorism "because we have suffered from it." He said Syria drew a distinction between terrorism and "national resistance against colonialism."

Western diplomatic sources and Greek newspapers said Mr. Assad's visit was aimed at countering claims that Damascus instigated recent guerrilla attacks in Europe and to convince Western Europe that Syria was a target of terrorism and military threats from Israel and America.

President Ronald Reagan's administration has criticised Syria for allegedly supporting Palestinian extremists led by Abu Nidal. U.S. officials have accused Abu Nidal of masterminding the December attacks on airports in Rome and Vienna in which 20 people died.

Italian newspapers reported last weekend that investigators were preparing indictments against 20 Syrians in connection with the Rome attack. ("Italy has no proof," page 2).

Western diplomats in the Middle East, speaking on condition they not be identified, said the April 15 U.S. air raids on Libya raised fears in Syria of similar moves against it by the United States and Israel.

4 Irbid candidates file nomination

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four candidates submitted their nomination papers to contest in by-elections for a vacant Irbid seat in the Lower House of Parliament. Irbid Deputy Governor Hussein Al Abushi said Tuesday.

Mr. Abushi, head of a special committee in charge of registration of candidates for the June 25 election, identified the four candidates as Mohammad Al Bashir Al Ghazawi, Suleiman Al Ajlouni, Abdul Majeed Nusair and Rihab Mikdadi.

The June 25 election is to fill one of the five Irbid seats in the Lower House. The seat fell vacant when Deputy Na'im Al Fal passed away earlier this year.

It was previously announced that nominations were to be accepted as of Sunday but it was postponed until Monday since the Kingdom was celebrating Independence Day.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times on Tuesday, Mr. Abushi said he expected more candidates to file nomination papers before registration closes on June 5.

Polling booths will remain open throughout June 25 and immediately upon their closure ballot boxes will be sealed and handed over to special committees charged with counting the votes.

Each committee is made up of court judges with a chief judge in each polling area.

Results are expected to be announced late June 25 night or early next day.

The winning deputy will join the Lower House on Oct. 2, when Parliament reconvenes after summer recess.

Last week, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai issued a circular to all ministries, government departments and institutions requesting them to cooperate with the governor of Irbid to facilitate the by-election. Mr. Rifai also requested all concerned officials to involve citizens in the committees and to provide the necessary means of transport to help facilitate the election process.

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Embassy denies reception was given to Israelis in Morocco

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Moroccan embassy in Amman has categorically denied agency reports from Casablanca that Moroccan Jews including 250 from Israel were welcomed by an official government delegation at a religious festival on Monday.

The embassy said that entry to Morocco is only allowed to those carrying Moroccan passports whether or not they carried other passports. It added that "certain Israeli circles were trying to use the occasion against Morocco."

In a dispatch from Casablanca, the Reuters news agency said Interior Minister Driss Basri and local provincial governors were present when the nearly 1,000 visitors joined several thousand other Moroccan Jews in a "helo-la" — pilgrimage to a Jewish shrine — at Benahmid, 70 kilometres southeast of Casablanca.

According to the agency report, the Israeli delegation was led by Rafael Ederly, a Labour member of the Israeli Knesset (parliament), and four other MKs. The event was also attended by Jews from France, Canada, the United States and Latin America.

The embassy statement, which was published Tuesday in Al Rai newspaper, said, however, that Moroccan Jews hold an annual convention which is attended by Moroccan Jews from a number of countries in the world.

No Moroccan embassy official was immediately available for comment on whether there were Moroccan Jews in Israel who carried dual nationalities, hence admitted to Morocco.

The Moroccan Jewish community in Morocco has dwindled to about 10,000 from a peak of 240,000 when the French protectorate ended 30 years ago. Most of them emigrated to Israel.

If confirmed, it would be the second visit to Morocco by a delegation of Jews from Israel. In 1984 an international conference of Moroccan Jewry was held in Rabat.

Peres defends Shin Bet chief in debate over probe into killings

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres, in an angry speech to parliament, defended the embattled head of the super-secret Shin Bet security service and accused the media of conducting a trial by press.

However, Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir, who has demanded a police investigation of the Shin Bet chief, complained of "severe pressures" from the government to drop the case.

The 11m news agency reported that Shalom was suspected of personally giving the order to kill two Palestinians who hijacked a bus to the occupied Gaza Strip in April 1984. The report did not cite a source.

Israel Radio reported that the allegations also included forging documents and fabricating evidence as well as forcing people to lie.

Mr. Peres was answering four motions of no-confidence presented by small opposition parties over the government's handling of the case.

The debate was stormy and loud. Parliament member Victor Shem-Tov of the Socialist Mapam Party said that Shin Bet agents "fight the toughest frontline battles. Exactly because they have to work in secret we must make sure that they stick to the truth."

Mr. Peres interrupted Mr. Shem-Tov three times, and later another legislator was ordered out.

Mr. Peres said he would not fire the Shin Bet chief. "What right have I to fire him? Has something been proven against him?"

Referring to Mr. Zamir's claim that he was being pressured, Mr. Peres said: "I don't understand what pressures are being brought upon him... he asked my opinion and decided in contradiction of my opinion" to demand Shalom's prosecution (Shamir may be implicated, page 2)

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King cables wishes for speedy recovery to Siad Barre

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday sent a cable to Somali President Mohamud Siad Barre wishing him speedy recovery from injuries suffered in a car accident near Mogadishu on Friday.

"I was deeply moved upon hearing the news of the accident and wish you speedy recovery so that you can resume your leadership of your country and people," the King said in the cable.

The Somali president is undergoing medical treatment in Saudi Arabia.

Assad meets Greek premier

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Kuwait to lose 30,000 expatriates this summer

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, one of the richest Arab oil states, will lose 30,000 expatriates in the next few months because of shrinking revenues, the Arab Times said Tuesday.

Jordanians, Egyptians and Asians will be among those hit hardest, the daily said, quoting unidentified sources.

They include teachers, engineers, drivers and clerks, and expatriates in several ministries have already been given notice, it said.

It said a joint plan had been approved by members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to cut foreign workforces by 20 per cent, but gave no deadline for implementation. The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Kuwait unveiled plans last August, before the crash in oil prices, to try to balance its population of 1.7 million, of which Kuwaitis account for only 40 per cent.

Last month, it announced a budget for the next financial year starting in July putting income 38 per cent lower at \$6.71 billion and spending 11 per cent down at \$10.63 billion.

Kuwait enforced a big clampdown on foreigners after a failed car-bomb attempt, on the life of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, a year ago.

Social Affairs and Labour Minister Khalid Al Jumeian was quoted last month as saying Kuwait deported 18,000 people in 1985, mostly because they were in the emirate illegally.

No recent official breakdown by nationality or regional grouping is available for foreigners currently in Kuwait.

But figures from Mr. Jumeian's ministry show the Asian workforce grew to 145,716 in 1980 from 62,586 in 1975, or some 38 per cent of expatriates. They are mostly from Pakistan, India, South Korea and the Philippines, diplomats said.

The ratio of non-Kuwaiti Arabs fell from 87 per cent of the foreign workforce to 59.5 per cent over the same period. They comprise mostly Palestinians and Egyptians, diplomats said.

The National Bank of Kuwait, the emirate's biggest private bank, reported in its latest economic review an 82.7 per cent drop in the net inflow of foreign workers in the first half of last year, compared with the same period two years earlier.

Turkish politicians prepare for polls

By Paul Bolding
Reuter

ANKARA — Turkey's next elections could be more than a year away, but politicians are already jostling to catch the voter's eye.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal travels the country tirelessly, promoting his governing Motherland Party, but keeping his counsel on when 11 outstanding by-elections will be held.

His opposition from the right, meanwhile, undergoes a shake-up and former Prime Ministers Bulent Ecevit and Suleyman Demirel, though banned from party politics until 1992, show they are still in the game.

The left-of-centre Social Democratic Populist Party (SDPP) remains Mr. Ozal's main opposition, seemingly garnering support from disquiet over living standards and inflation of 34 per cent.

By-elections are held once in each parliamentary term, when the government decides, and at least a year before the next scheduled general election. Eleven of the 400 seats in parliament are now empty and the deadline is November 1987.

Both Mr. Demirel and Mr. Ecevit, their activities restricted since the social strife of the 1970s when they alternated in power, have been taking advantage of a legal amendment restoring their right to speak publicly.

Mr. Ecevit re-entered the fray this month when he addressed a congress of the Democratic Left Party, the first time he had spoken to a mass gathering since before the 1980 coup.

The party was formed last year by his wife Rahsan, but has shown up poorly in the polls and newspapers reflect little support except from Mr. Ecevit's backers from the 1970s.

Apparently ignoring a ban on involvement in party politics, Mr. Ecevit addressed a cheering audience for 90 minutes, attacking Turkey's 1982 constitution and political restrictions including those on himself.

Mr. Demirel, displaying a markedly different style, has been drawing big crowds on a tour of strongholds including the central town of Isparta, where one recent foray coincided with a visit by Mr. Ozal.

The premier asserted he did not see Mr. Demirel as a rival, calling him disparagingly "what's his name." But newspaper cartoonists depicted them either fighting cocks or wrestlers.

Mr. Demirel has discreet links with the right-wing True Path Party, the only leading group not to have any seats in parliament, but his plans remain unclear.

Despite speculation he could become President when Gen. Kenan Evren steps down in 1989, it remains to be seen whether the military would allow the position to go to the man they ousted from the premiership in 1980.

If Mr. Ozal is still in power then, he too might object to one of his staunchest critics becoming head of state, even though it was under Mr. Demirel's tutelage in the 1970s that he first flexed his political muscles.

His main challenge will come from the SDPP, which in the last opinion poll taken in March scored 41.4 per cent to 32.2 for the Motherland Party.

Its leader, Aydin Guven Gurkan, has said he does not want to stand when the office comes up for election later this year but a strong contingent in the party wants him to stay.

He is severely critical of Mr. Ozal for his running of the economy, on human rights, higher education and many other issues.

Apparently feeling votes on the right are more likely to be split to his detriment than those on the left, Mr. Ozal takes openly about his aim that Turkey should adopt a two-party system.

But he may gain electoral advantage from the decision of the right-wing Nationalist Democracy Party, which had been losing support, to dissolve itself this month.

Its leaders want members to join the Free Democrat Party, subsequently created by former business leader Mehmet Yazar in the hope that a new image would garner votes. But only 22 of its 52 members of parliament did so, and Mr. Ozal signed up 13 of them along with five other independents to boost his majority in parliament to 224 from 206.

Bonn president meets Turkish opposition

ANKARA (R) — West German President Richard von Weizsäcker, showing a willingness to listen to dissenting views, Tuesday met Turkish opposition party leaders.

Aydin Guven Gurkan, who is stepping down as leader of the Social Democratic Populist Party, told reporters he voiced grievances to Von Weizsäcker about limitations on human rights, trade union freedom and higher education in Turkey.

Von Weizsäcker, the first Western head of state in Turkey since the 1980 military coup, Monday night took a dinner given by President Kenan Evren that Western Europe was monitoring developments on the three issues.

Mr. Gurkan said they also discussed economic issues. "I told him that the loss of purchasing power in Turkey is a serious danger to social peace," he said at the chateau which is Von Weizsäcker's residence while in Ankara.

Mr. Gurkan, who has a doctorate in economics from Cologne University, confirmed he plans to give up the leadership of his party next weekend in favour of Enal Inonu.

Mr. Inonu was leader of the Social Democratic Party before it merged with Mr. Gurkan's Populist Party last year, at which time they made a power-sharing arrangement.

'Italy has no proof that Syria ordered attacks'

NEW YORK (R) — Italian police believe that Syria provided support to terrorists who carried out five attacks in Rome last year but they have no evidence that Damascus directly ordered the attacks, a U.S. television network has reported.

CBS said Italian police have prepared 14 arrest warrants in connection with the attacks, including the Rome airport attack on Dec. 27 which left 17 people dead, it said.

The fourteen were Palestinians, most of whom are already in Italian jails captured after the attacks on the airport, two airline offices, a cafe and the Jordanian embassy.

Some of the warrants named gunmen outside Italy, including Abu Nidal, the Palestinian believed to be the mastermind, behind all the attacks, CBS said.

Italy's case has been built on information from Mohammad Sarhem, the one survivor of the airport attack, CBS said.

Sarhem has told police of the Rome network in which he operated, the arms drop at a park where the guns for the airport attack were hidden, the training camps in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, run with Syrian and Libyan backing.

"But the Italians have no evidence that direct orders for the attacks came from Damascus," CBS said.

Shamir could be implicated in probe into Gaza killings

TEL AVIV (R - CENSORED) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir might face legal action in connection with the April 1984 killing of two Palestinians, authoritative sources said Tuesday.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres might also find himself implicated in the case though he was not in office at the time, the sources said.

Mr. Shamir, as prime minister, was responsible for internal security when the two Palestinians were beaten to death after holding a busload of Israelis hostage overnight in the Gaza Strip. Two other Palestinians and one hostage were killed in the assault which freed the passengers.

Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir, currently seeking to prosecute Shin Bet (internal security service) chief Avraham Shalom with unspecified "serious crimes," could charge Mr. Shamir if he believed Shalom acted with the approval and knowledge of the then prime minister, the sources said.

Mr. Shamir, who becomes prime minister again in October under a rotation agreement with Mr. Peres, was in direct contact with army and police chiefs on the spot throughout the hostage drama.

Shamir aide Yossi Ahinier, questioned by Reuters on the possibility that Mr. Shamir might face legal action, said "it is still too early to predict the judicial outcome of the current controversy."

Saying Mr. Shamir was proud of having had security chief Shalom under his orders, Ahinier added:

"We hope this affair will disappear from the headlines for the sake of our country and its security."

The 10-member Israeli inner cabinet decided overnight it would recommend the case be dropped because prosecuting Shalom would compromise the security service's ability.

But authoritative sources told reporters the government was at least equally afraid of political consequences which could also involve Mr. Peres though to a lesser degree than Mr. Shamir.

Mr. Peres was not in government at the time of the bus hijack but was informed of its full circumstances when taking office the same year and he could be accused of obstructing justice by not revealing facts to the judiciary.

Mr. Zamir was reported intent on pursuing his attempts to have Shalom charged and most legal experts said Israeli law gave him full freedom to do so.

Among evidence he wishes to use are statements made to judicial authorities by several top-ranking officers of the security services who were sacked by Shalom and whose names are now being revealed for the first time by the Israeli media.

Many details of the case are still banned from publication but Israeli authorities appear somewhat at a loss on how to maintain censorship following first revelations about the case in the United States media.

S. Arabia may turn to East

(Continued from page 1)

the diplomats said.

They pointed out that, technically, Congress could reject Mr. Reagan's certification and block the delivery.

Since Saudi Arabia has already paid \$2.7 billion of the total value of the AWACS deal, blocking the delivery would mean Congress would have to appropriate about \$3 billion to repay the Kingdom and pay a cancellation fee.

Although the pending missile package is important, diplomats here view it as minuscule compared to the stakes in the AWACS.

Britain recently won a \$7-billion sale of 72 Panavia Anglo-German-Italian Tornado fighter bombers, 30 British Hawk jet trainers, and 30 Swiss Pilatus propeller trainers.

Saudi Arabia originally wanted additional McDonnell Douglas-built F-15 fighters, in a deal that would have cost them closer to \$3 billion. That deal would have been much less expensive because a logistics and supply system is already in place for the kingdom's F-15 force.

Saudi Arabia turned to Britain when their request for more F-15s was turned down in Washington two years ago. The kingdom has 62 F-15s which it bought at 1978 prices of \$1.5 billion.

Saudi-U.S. military cooperation has gone a long way since President Roosevelt gave the kingdom's founder, the late King Abdul Aziz, a number of DC-3 aircraft to launch the country's national carrier.

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Expert says Israel can use SDI against Arabs

TEL AVIV (R) — Nuclear physicist Edward Teller has said Israel could use "Star Wars" technology against short-range Soviet missiles supplied to Syria.

Israel this month joined Britain and West Germany as the third U.S. ally to take part in President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), a move the official Soviet News Agency TASS warned harmed prospects for Middle East peace.

"The strongest warning that Israel got from anybody is the Soviet delivery of rockets to Syria," Teller told Israeli Radio. "The proper reaction to that warning is SDI, which can be used... at an early date against short-range missiles."

Israeli state radio reported last week that Syria might receive Soviet SS-23 ground-to-ground missiles with a 500 kilometre range covering targets anywhere in Israel. Syria already has shorter-range SS-21s.

Teller, who is visiting Israel, was the driving force behind the development of the U.S. hydrogen bomb. He is a firm supporter of SDI, popularly known as "Star Wars."

The programme is aimed at developing lasers, rail guns and other space-based weapons which might destroy attacking nuclear missiles.

Khartoum still controls Wau despite rebel siege

By Dalia Baligh
Associated Press

WAU, Sudan (AP) — The military governor sat at his desk and pointed through a window to the Jur River a few hundred metres away.

On one side of the river, the government controls this besieged provincial capital, a city without electricity or running water, where food prices are soaring and the population is swelling with refugees.

On the other side of the Jur, the forces of Col. John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) hold sway.

"We can't cross the river," the governor, Brig. Albino Akol, said. "The SPLA is on the other side and will shoot at us."

Wau is one of the few areas of Bahr Al Ghazal province not under control of the SPLA. The largest rebel group in southern Sudan is making unprecedented gains in its 3-year-old civil war.

"There are SPLA troops all around Wau. They sit in the mango groves across the river and shoot at anyone who tries to pass," Brig. Akol said. He has served as military governor since a bloodless coup ended Jaafar Numeiri's 16-year presidency a year ago.

The intervening 12 months has seen a succession of SPLA victories against government troops. The most recent and important

was at the beginning of March, when the rebels took their first regional capital, Rumbek, which is 215 kilometres south east of Wau.

Officials in Wau said 12,000 to 15,000 government troops had flown into Wau in recent weeks. They said most were marching to retake Rumbek in what could be a key battle of this bloody war.

Sudanese observers say victory won't come easy. They say the troops, consisting mostly of southerners and westerners, are unhappy about fighting their southern kin. Also, Sudanese in Wau noted that government troops lack experience with fighting in the bush while SPLA forces have been at it for years.

"Only last week, a jeep carrying six government officials was blown up by an SPLA land mine on one of the roads leading out from Wau," said a Wau official who spoke on condition he not be identified. "The soldiers were really shaken when they saw the remains."

After the fall of Rumbek, Sudanese officials and western observers say the morale of Sudanese army troops suffered a severe blow. But Western sources said that Libya, which helped the SPLA get started, seems to have switched its allegiance.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Libya has supplied aircraft and military supplies to the Sudanese government as part of a warning relationship between Libya and Khartoum since Numeiri was overthrown.

The sources said Libyan planes had bombed rebel-held Yirri and Rumbek. Sudan officials have denied receiving Libyan help, however.

Meanwhile, worsening security in Bahr Al Ghazal has put added pressure on this drowsy capital, which consists mainly of mud-brick huts with thatched roofs. Electricity and running water have been cut for more than a year because of SPLA operations.

Brig. Akol Akol said the city's population, in a year, has mushroomed to 100,000 from 60,000. People flee not only SPLA attacks on the native Binka tribesmen in northern Bahr Al Ghazal.

"The fall of Rumbek sent fear around, and lots of people from smaller towns and from Rumbek have come to Wau," Brig. Akol said. "Some stay with relatives, other stay in hastily erected shanty towns. And if there are more government movements on Rumbek and Yirri, there will be even more displaced people."

A nighttime gunfire and nightly exchanges of curfew between the troops and the rebels did nothing to ease tensions. But the departure of the government troops did.

"When the troops came into town from Khartoum, it alarmed and frightened the people," said Bishop Joseph Nyekindi of the Roman Catholic Church in Wau.

Now these have moved to Rumbek, and the people today are feeling at ease."

However, the bishop, a Dinka who grew up in Wau, said the city's food situation is "rather critical" because the SPLA has practically cut off roads from production centres, blocking them and laying mines when they can't hold them.

He said the rainy season, which has started in some areas, "will cut off the rest of the roads that the SPLA hand."

Sorghum, which Sudanese call dura and is their main staple, has skyrocketed in price to 30 Sudanese pounds (\$7.50) for a kilogramme (2.2 pounds), two to three times the normal price.

"People cannot go out to cultivate dura anymore," said a Wau resident who, like most people in the tense city, refused to let his name be used.

"If they try to cross the river, they become SPLA hostages. That is why the food prices have become so high, because dura and other things have to come from other areas by trucks and that's very risky."

The U.S.-based relief organization World Vision is trying to truck in 3,750 metric tons of food to Wau before the end of April. The amount originally planned was 1,800 metric tons until additional funds were obtained from Band Aid, Irish rock star Bob Geldof's We Are The World relief effort.

Besides the lack of food and the military presence, tensions in Wau were heightened by the 12 days of voting in national elections which began April 1.

"People thought the SPLA would try and bombard Wau during the elections to disrupt them," said a Sudanese merchant. "But the SPLA didn't shell. There are several polling stations, but I haven't yet seen many people go to vote." Voting in Sudan's first elections in 18 years was postponed indefinitely in more than half of the southern constituencies because of Col. Garang's rebellion.

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TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.					
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77111-14 PROGRAMME ONE 15:00 Koran 15:10 Religious programme 15:20 Cartoons 15:30 Cartoons 15:40 Documentaries 15:50 Arabic series 16:00 Religious programme 16:10 Arabic series 16:20 News in Arabic 16:30 Religious programme 16:40 Arabic series 16:50 News in Arabic 17:00 Arabic Play PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Documentaries 18:10 Varieties 18:20 News in French 18:30 Ajournd'hui en France 18:40 News in Hebrew 18:50 News in Arabic 19:00 Emergency Room 19:10 Documentary (Dialogue) 19:20 Alfred Hitchcock 19:30 News in English 19:40 Ramadan in the World 19:50 Play of the Week RADIO JORDAN 8 - 12.5 AM & 99 MHz FM & partly on 96.00 KHz. SW Tel: 77111-14 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsdesk 08:00 Morning Show 08:30 News Summary 08:45 Morning Show Cont. 09:00 Pop Session 09:15 News Summary 09:30 Pop Session Cont. 09:45 News Summary 10:00 Pop Session 10:15 News Bulletin 10:30 The Young Sound 10:45 Concert Hour 11:00 News Summary 11:15 Over a Cup of Tea 11:30 Arab Music 11:45 News Desk 12:00 Date with a Star		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS A painting exhibition by the students of the Nazareth Sisters College at the French Cultural Centre (until May 28). "Caricatures from the Federal Republic of Germany at the Goethe Institute (until May 28). A panoramic exhibition of the French song at the French Cultural Centre (until June 4). CIRCUS Romanian Circus daily at Al Hussein Sports City. VIDEO "La Sylphide" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre. Tel: 6610267 American Centre. Tel: 643731 American Centre library. Tel: 641520 British Council. Tel: 6361478 French Cultural Centre. Tel: 637009 Goethe Institute. Tel: 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre. Tel: 642033 Spanish Cultural Centre. Tel: 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre. Tel: 639777 Haya Arts Centre. Tel: 665195 Hussein Youth City. Tel: 6671816 Y.W.C.A. Tel: 641793 Amman Municipal Library. Tel: 637111 University of Jordan Library. Tel: 843555 MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mummies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Clindal Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 73200-1, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 07:15 London, Larnaca (BA) 08:20 Karachi (PK) 08:30 Seoul (SA) 08:35 Cairo (MS) 08:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:00 New Amsterdam (RJ) 09:05 Baghdad (IA) 11:05 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ) 11:10 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ) 11:20 Beirut (ME) 11:30 Kuwait (RJ) 11:35 Tripoli (LN) 11:40 Cairo (RJ) 11:45 London, Geneva (RJ) 11:50 New Amsterdam (RJ) 11:55 Madrid, Rome (RJ) 11:55 Athens, Damascus (OA) 19:10 Bucharest, Istanbul (RJ) 19:25 Beirut (ME) 19:30 Paris, Damascus (AF) 19:45 Bangkok (RJ) 21:00 Damascus (RJ) 21:00 Baghdad (IA) 21:05 Damascus (PK) 01:25 Baghdad (RJ) DEPARTURES 06:20 Frankfurt (LH) 06:30 Aqaba (RJ) 09:10 Larnaca, London (BA) 09:20 Athens, Rome (PK) 11:20 Cairo (RJ) 11:30 Damascus (RJ) 11:35 Damascus, Rome (AZ) 12:45 Larnaca, Zurich (SK) 12:50 Belgrade, London (RJ) 13:00 Beirut, Doha (RJ) 14:30 Cairo (RJ) 15:35 Kuwait (RJ) 17:45 Kuwait (RJ) 18:40 Jeddah (SV) 20:30 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ) 20:45 Beirut, Doha (RJ) 21:10 Baghdad (RJ) 21:15 Jeddah (RJ) 21:20 Cairo (RJ) 21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 22:00 Seoul (SA) 22:15 Baghdad (IA) 22:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 22:35 Karachi (PK) PRAYER TIMES 03:54 Fajr 05:30 Sunrise 12:33 Dhuhr 16:14 Asr 19:36 Maghreb 21:13 Isha		MARITIME TRAFFIC Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port: - Addis Ababa - Oleg Marik - Noddy Rotterdam - Otrinta - Sonogy Amin Kassar and Sons Company, Tel: 622324-9 at your service. WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be fine, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and calm seas. Amman 13/28 Aqaba 19/35 Cesari 12/34 Jordan Valley 18/35 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27.6, Aqaba 33.4. Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent. MONEY EXCHANGE Tuesday rates Local selling rates in JLD Belgian franc 75.5 / 76.4 Dutch guilder 137 / 138.7 French franc 48.4 / 48.9 Italian lire 22.5 / 22.8 Japanese yen (for 100) 208.1 / 210.4 Swedish crown 48.6 / 49 Swiss franc 186.1 / 188.4 U.K. sterling pound 326.6 / 332.8 U.S. dollar 333.4 / 336.4 W. German mark 154.1 / 156		EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Amman civil defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Unit 271293, 27131 Civil Defence Qawneh 770733 Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306 Ambulance 199, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 67673 Blood bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 622090-3 Police mobile 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 8963901 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal water complaints 771125/8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53306/0 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amman 62444/2 Al-Musader Hospital 642362 Jabal Amman Maternity 626140 Malha, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shamsi 66417/4 Shamsi Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845/65 J. Amn. Hospital 667227/9 Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 66617/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 Al-Ahli, Al-Muhajra 777101/3 Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26 Queen Alia Hospital 891611/15 Amal Hospital 622405/0 Amal Hospital 674153 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Nayef Asyil 630638 Dr. Bassem Vasa 779997 First pharmacy 661912 Al-Jamal pharmacy 636730 Al-Jamal pharmacy 6470 Mesh pharmacy 770910 TAXIS: Taxi taxi 644680 Waddah taxi 812454 Khaleel taxi 623715 Hamam taxi 635566 Jerusalem taxi 639655 IRBID: Dr. Fayal Mubdel 247575 Anas pharmacy (-) ZARQA: Dr. Omar Hajjawi 986171 Anas pharmacy (-) Al-Sadoq pharmacy (-) GENERAL Jordan Television 773111/19 Radio Jordan 744111/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in JLD per kg. Apple 240 / 250 Apple (yellow) 240 / 250 Apple (American & French) 240 / 250 Banana 300 / 260 Beans (Mukammal) 250 / 220 Broad beans 280 / 240 Cabbage 60 / 40 Carrot (yellow) 130 / 100 Cauliflower 180 / 140 Cucumber (small) 80 / 50 Cucumber (large) 130 / 100 Eggplant (small) 150 / 100 Eggplant (large) 180 / 140 Garlic 280 / 240 Grapefruit 160 / 120 Lemon 230 / 200 Lettuce (per one) 130 / 130 Maurow (large) 80 / 50 Maurow (small) 130 / 100 Maurow (medium) 160 / 120 Maurow (Sweet) 200 / 150 Onion (dry) 80 / 50 Okra 800 / 600 Orange (local and Valencia) 160 / 120 Parsley 70 / 70 Pepper (sweet) 200 / 160 Pepper (hot) 340 / 300 Potatoes (local) 130 / 100 Radishes 100 / 70 Tomatoes 110 / 80 Turnip 220 / 200 Water leaves 220 / 200 Winter melon 100 / 80	

كلنا مت الاله

King issues directives for construction of new hospital in Tafileh

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new, modern hospital is to be constructed as soon as possible in Tafileh Governorate, southern Jordan, upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein, according to Dr. Abdullah Akayleh, deputy for the Tafileh constituency in the Lower House of Parliament.

The King issued his directives following a visit he paid to Tafileh on Monday and Dr. Akayleh told Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper that the new 100-bed hospital is urgently needed to provide medical services to the people in the area. The new hospital is designed to meet the governorate's increasing demand for medical services and he said that the existing hospital could not cope with this demand.

Health Ministry officials were not immediately ready to comment on the projected hospital. Studies have not yet been completed for the hospital and it will take time before all the procedures are completed, one official told the Jordan Times.

Tafileh Governorate is short of health care institutes as there is only one hospital in service. The new hospital would promote health situation in the city and the surrounding areas, according to Dr. Akayleh.

The Health Ministry plans to issue tenders to construct and equip three hospitals in a number of governorates and the construction of Tafileh Hospital will be one of the tenders.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan chairs monetary talks

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday chaired a meeting at the Prime Ministry during which a number of financial and monetary measures taken by government to bolster the national economy were discussed. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qassem in addition to other senior government officials.

Decree appoints consul for Ecuador

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued appointing Sami Al Salti as the honorary consul for Ecuador in Jordan. The appointment marks the first consular link between the two countries in political and economic affairs. According to the daily Arabic press, the Foreign Ministry is to open an honorary consulate for Bolivia in Jordan. It said Fuad Al Dweiri will be the first honorary Bolivian consul in Jordan.

Cabinet okays loan accord with EIB

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has endorsed an agreement between Jordan and the European Investment Bank (EIB). Under the agreement, the EIB will provide Jordan with JD 6 million loan to finance the second phase of the Amman Industrial Estate at Sahab.

Court sentences, fines briber

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Issam Sudki to a month and a half in prison and also fined him JD 10 for bribing a government official. The military governor Tuesday endorsed the sentence.

Man stabs sister to death

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 26-year-old man identified as N.S.A. has killed his own sister, aged 32, by stabbing her several times with a sharp knife, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper on Tuesday. The report said that the victim was taken to the Jordan University Hospital where she was pronounced dead upon arrival. The paper disclosed no further details but said that the brother and sister has been living in one of Amman's suburbs and that the police are now investigating the murder case.



Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan on Tuesday chairs a meeting of the Jordanian delegation which would attend a forthcoming meeting of the International Labour Organisation (Petra photo)

JEA continues electrification projects in rural areas

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has plans for supplying electricity to a further 104 villages which are inhabited by 30,000 people during 1986 and when this had been done, 93.5 per cent of the total rural regions of Jordan will have access to electric power, a JEA spokesman has announced.

He said at present 91 per cent of the rural regions in the Kingdom are supplied with electric power. A total of 109 villages, with a total population of 200,000 people, were supplied with electricity during 1985 raising the number of villages supplied with electricity to 574 with 985,000 inhabitants, according to the spokesman.

In 1985, JEA completed 88 per cent of the Amman-Aqaba 400 kilovolt power line and the rest of the project is expected to be completed in the coming month. The line will carry power from the Aqaba Thermal Power Station to Amman and its suburbs. Also, JEA is currently building a transformer station at Rahab to boost electric power in Irbid and Mafrq, the spokesman added.

Aqaba station

Referring to the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS), the spokesman said that it comprises two units, each with a capacity of 130 megawatts. The first unit has been installed and work on installing the second unit is expected to be completed towards the end of this year, he continued.

According to the spokesman, 1985 witnessed a noticeable retreat in the national economic growth and a decrease in the overall demand for energy which in turn led to less energy consumption. He said the rate dropped by 20 per cent in comparison with previous years.

The JEA spokesman said that in 1985 there were 400,000 subscribers registered on JEA's electric power network in the Kingdom, compared with 362,000 subscribers in 1984.

British Council raises funds for special education centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has received a donation of JD 6,314 which was presented by Mrs. Latta, wife of the director of the British Council in Amman. The contribution was received by GUVS President Abdullah Khatib.

The money was raised at a tea party organised by the British Council for the benefit of the special education centre for the mentally handicapped in the Baqa'a refugee camp. The centre, which is expected to cost JD 24,000, will accommodate 50 handicapped children from the camp, who will be treated for free, Dr. Khatib said.

The British Council raised JD 4,000 last year at a similar fund-raising party.

The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, GUVS and the psychological health society contributed towards the financing of the Baqa'a project along with private and individual donors.

The psychological health society, which will run the centre after its establishment, also runs three similar centres in Amman, Wadi Seer and Zarqa. These centres handle the education and rehabilitation of 375 handicapped children.

Dr. Khatib thanked Mr. and Mrs. David Latta for the contribution raised by the British Council.

The police immediately began looking for the people whose names appeared on the receipts and were able to apprehend two of the gang members in Aqaba, Brig. Zou'bi said. He continued that the

Jordan to take part in ILO conference

Haj Hassan to head team to Geneva

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will take part in the 72nd conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which is due to open in Geneva on June 4, according to an official announcement issued on Tuesday.

The announcement followed a meeting, chaired by Minister of Labour Khaled Al Haj Hassan and attended by members of the Jordanian delegation, to discuss subjects on the ILO meeting's agenda. The minister, who will head the delegation, reviewed with the delegation members subject to be tackled at the conference, including a report prepared by the ILO office and the organisation's earlier recommendations in addition to programmes on cooperation among member states.

During the three week meeting, the minister said, delegations from 40 nations will discuss a special report on the negative economic and social effects of racial discrimination policies adopted by South Africa's government against the local black population.

Arab delegates meeting

The minister said that the Jordanian delegation will also take part in the meetings of Arab delegates on June 2 and June 3, prior to the ILO conference. These meetings, he said, will discuss social and economic consequences of the Gulf War on the people of the region, the ILO's conference agenda and a report by an ILO team

on the condition of Arab workers under Israeli rule. Also to be discussed with the Arab group is the subject of organising a festival during the conference for displaying international solidarity with Arab Palestinian workers.

The Jordanian delegation, due to leave for Geneva on May 31, groups representatives of the Ministry of Labour, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions.

A recent ILO report has said that Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories have inferior working and living conditions because of the Jewish state's colonisation policy.

A three-member ILO mission which visited the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip last February said Israelis living there were better off economically and socially than the Arab inhabitants as a result of Israeli government policies.

The report said nearly one third of all workers living in the occupied territories went to work in Israel and suffered from bad conditions and fewer chances of promotion, less job security and inferior trade union protection than Israeli workers.

Firm reinstates 5 staff after labour dispute is resolved

AMMAN (J.T.) — Five workers, dismissed from their jobs by the Industrial, Agricultural and Commercial Company, have returned to work after the settlement of a labour dispute between the workers' union and the company's management.

The five were helped to get their jobs back by the general union of workers in petrochemical industries in Jordan which took up the matter with the Ministry of Labour.

The dispute was settled at a meeting in which representatives of the ministry, the company and the workers' union discussed a

variety of issues pertaining to the dismissed workers and work conditions. The meeting also decided that the company pay JD 10,580 to the Social Security Corporation to cover security premiums for 11 other workers. The group also endorsed a company decision to dismiss another unspecified number of workers provided that the company's management pay them full compensation upon the termination of employment.

In return, the workers union said it will exert all efforts to ensure full cooperation between the company's management and workers.

Municipal experts predict population of Amman to rise to 1.8m by 2005

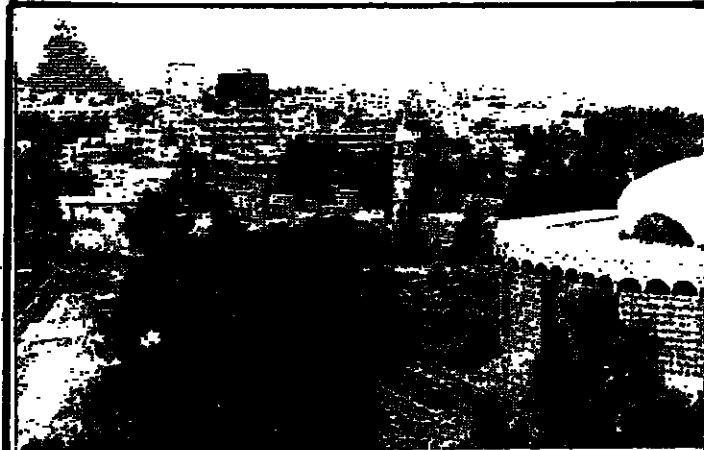
AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of specialists employed by Amman Municipality expects the population of the capital to rise to nearly 1.8 million in 20 years from now. The team, which met last week under the chairmanship of Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh, said in a report that there will be at least 800,000 more people living in the capital by the year 2005 and that Amman will accommodate 60 per cent of the Kingdom's total population. The report said that by 2005 there will be a 22-per cent surplus in the number of workers within Amman Governorate.

The meeting reviewed major issues that will be facing the capital in the coming 20 years and endorsed programmes for expansion in health, education, transport, water, industry, housing and land affairs.

The meeting said that sufficient lands should be made available for building schools in order to end the present two-shift system which allows the same building to be used by two separate schools in the morning and the afternoon.

Water resources

The meeting also called for fin-



Municipality of Amman specialists predict that by the year 2005, Amman will accommodate 60 per cent of Jordan's total population (J.T. file photo)

ding new water resources within the municipality's five-year plan and recommended that the existing water networks should be made to function more reliably and efficiently. It said that a system should be installed to drain away rain water and that should be separated from the sewerage system.

The meeting decided on measures to facilitate means of transport and travel within the

Amman area such as linking various districts with roads. For this reason, ring roads around the city should be completed and sufficient parking lots for trucks and other vehicles should be provided, the meeting said.

The meeting also endorsed measures connected with health services, the building of factories and industrial businesses, the use of land for different purposes and the building of housing projects.

RSS researcher returns from U.S. programme on economics

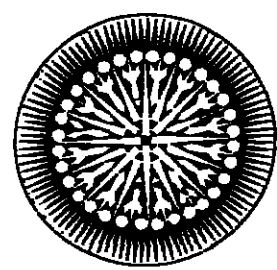
AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the economic research department at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Dr. Mohammad Al Smadi, has returned from the U.S. after taking part in an economic programme held last month to discuss the U.S. economy and its impact on the world economy.

Dr. Smadi told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that a number of topics which concern world economic policy and the Third World were discussed during the programme. He went on to say that the programme also discussed Third World debts, the monetary policy of the U.S. government, the U.S. trade deficit and the impact of these factors on the world economic situation, especially on debt issues in the Third World.

Also discussed were a number of subjects related to the decline of oil prices, the dollar and interest rates, restrictions on U.S. foreign trade and the effect of this on developing countries and their trade and industrial relations with the U.S.

Dr. Smadi added that the participants called on international institutions, especially the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to contribute towards remedying the economic situations in Third World countries in order to overcome existing economic problems in these countries.

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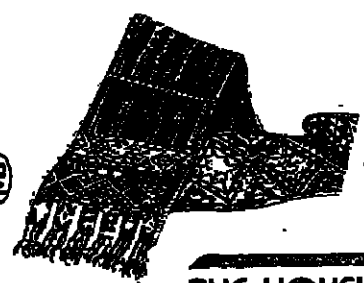
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Early Bronze Age settlement revealed at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh

The following article by Rami G. Khouri is the second in a three-part series on the findings of a British Museum's team dig at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh in the Jordan Valley. The remaining part of the series will appear in this week's Jordan Times.

DURING the EB II period, the lower tell was heavily settled, and so presumably was the main tell. The excavators have not yet reached into the EB II levels on the main tell, but much EB II pottery is eroding out of the sides of the tell.

Excavations along the south-west side of the lower tell have uncovered several EB II buildings, some of which were associated with a cobbled street. The most interesting building in this area had two rooms, the northern one having a wide entrance on the west side approached by a series of three pise steps.

Flanking the entranceway was a large circular flat stone set on the uppermost step, with a rare four-spouted painted ceramic lamp resting on the stone. Two more such lamps were found on a roughly square mud-brick installation in the centre of the stairway, in front of which a series of post-holes were sunk into the ground.

Such four-spouted lamps heretofore have always been associated with the EB IV period (some 500-600 years later, at the end of the 3rd Millennium B.C.), so these may be the earliest such examples yet found in Jordan-Palestine. The presence of three of these lamps in a single building at such an early date suggests to Mr. Tubb that the function of the building is clearly not domestic, and that "it may not be premature to postulate some type of shrine."

Early Bronze Age II levels were also excavated in the middle of the lower tell, with the same occupation sequence as the possible "shrine" area: an EB II settlement that had existed for perhaps 200-250 years was suddenly destroyed, followed by some thin, squatter-like occupation, and finally followed by the permanent abandonment of the lower tell as a

habitation area. A survey west of the tell also revealed a scatter of EB II sites, probably farmsteads, dwellings or field installations associated with the main tell. No evidence of a defensive town wall was found on the lower tell, indicating that this was a period of relative peace and stability.

Towards the end of EB II, around 2800 B.C., the settlement was violently destroyed, as evidenced by the remains of much ash, burned mudbricks and other remains associated with a classic destruction level. The lower tell was never re-inhabited, and gradually silted up.

For the next 1600 years (during the EB III, EB IV, Middle Bronze and Late Bronze periods), the entire site may possibly have been abandoned. No pottery sherds from these periods have been found on the surface or in the excavation trenches.

Mr. Tubb's excavations on both the lower and upper tells show that the next major period of settlement was during the late Bronze/Early Iron Age transition period, from 1300-1250 B.C. to around 1150 B.C. This settlement, however, was considerably different from the peaceful, open EB II period farming village.

At the end of the Late Bronze Age, the settlement on the summit of the main tell was surrounded by a massive defensive wall at least 13 metres thick. The casemate wall was composed of two parallel inner and outer mud-brick walls, connected by 1.1-metre-wide crosswalls made of large mud-bricks of an average size of 42 cm x 25 cm x 11 cm.

This thick casemate wall was built over an earlier, apparently solid, mud-brick wall that is over 2.6 metres wide — also clearly

defensive in nature.

This huge Late Bronze/Early Iron Age casemate wall protected a settlement that was partly excavated this year, along with the same settlement's cemetery located just outside the fortification wall, on the lower tell.

Only one small room from the heavily defended settlement was fully excavated to floor level at the end of the 1986 season. This 1.5-metre-square room, which 1.5-metre-thick walls that stood at least 1.7 metres high, is thought to have served as a storage area.

The inhabitants of the settlement buried their dead in a small, very densely used cemetery just outside the city wall — directly on and in the silted remains of the former EB II settlement on the lower tell.

In the four squares opened during the last two seasons of excavations, Mr. Tubb's team excavated 110 burials within an area of just 20 square metres — revealing an extraordinarily intensive use of a cemetery rarely found anywhere else in the region during this period. Excavating the cemetery was a painstaking process, for most of the burials were cut into earlier burials, producing a jumble of honeycomb-like pits that were distinguished from one another only with great patience and difficulty.

Most of the burials were simple, roughly oval pit burials. Some were lined with irregularly and vertically placed mud-bricks. A few were more neatly constructed, well-cut rectangular pits lined with mud-bricks, some of which were covered with mud-brick slabs.

The three main types of burial practices were primary burials, secondary burials, and derived secondary burials where the people buried parts of skeletons that were disturbed during later grave cutting.

Several infants were buried in jars set in simple pits, the shoulders of the jars having been broken

off to insert the bodies. The 1986 excavations showed that many of the jars and jugslets interred with the deceased as funerary objects were deliberately broken at their mouths, presumably as part of some symbolic ritual.

Most graves contained single, articulated skeletons, with the body usually extended on its back. Two peculiar burial practices were discovered this year. One had the head of the deceased placed inside a storage jar that had been broken off at the shoulder, with the rest of the body covered in broken pottery sherds or stones.

The other was a stone-lined pit into which two large pitthoi jars were inserted shoulder-to-shoulder, into which were placed the remains of at least one adult, one child and a collection of disarticulated bones.

Some of the graves included no funerary objects, but many had various kinds of pottery vessels, bronze anklets or bracelets, or necklaces of shell, frit, stone or carnelian beads.

One particularly rich burial of a five-year-old girl included bronze anklets on each leg, wrist bracelets made of white paste beads and carnelian and silver beads, a carnelian, silver and black stone bead necklace, a bronze fibula with a silver drop earring adhering to it, a bronze hair clasp, silver and steatite finger rings, a bronze weaving spindle, a finely engraved stamp seal, and an animal-shaped pot that gave the impression that the young girl was buried with her plaything.

One of the brick-lined graves produced a well-preserved three-piece bronze wine set, comprising a bowl, a strainer and a juglet. Another rich grave deposit included 19 pottery vessels, a bronze



View from the summit of Tell es-Sa'idiyeh towards the west. In the foreground is part of the 13-metre-thick defensive wall of the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age town, with the individual mud-bricks clearly visible. (Photo by Rami G. Khouri).

bowl, a bronze dagger, a small curved bronze knife, a necklace of carnelian and stone beads, an alabaster chalice and three bone combs.

The graves date from the same period as the settlement and the burials excavated by Pritchard on the north side of the site — the transition from the Late Bronze Age II to Iron I (13th-12th Centuries B.C.). Unfortunately, the

cutting of this cemetery towards the end of the late Bronze Age seems to have all but destroyed the later phases of the Early Bronze Age II occupation in this area of the lower tell. Just a few small "pinnacles" of undisturbed EB II occupation were found, containing fragments of cobble pavings, floors and walls.



Jonathan Tubb holding two of the rare four-spouted lamps found in the EB II possible "shrine" area. (Photo by Rami G. Khouri).



A Late Bronze/Early Iron Age burial, with the head of the deceased placed inside a broken storage jar. (Photo by Alan Hills).

Possible meteor blast in space worries scientists

By Walter Sullivan
New York Times

BALTIMORE — Specialists assessing the probability of the Earth being struck by a large object from space have warned that the most likely disaster would result from the explosion in the atmosphere of a medium-sized meteorite.

Such an object would be very difficult to detect in advance, and its explosion high in the air could easily be mistaken for that of a nuclear weapon, scientists have said here at the spring meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

Space monitoring systems of the industrialized powers would probably determine that the explosion was not nuclear, but in unstable political areas such as the Middle East the meteorite blast could prompt retaliation, the specialists said.

They also said the response of highly automated systems, such as the proposed Strategic Defence Initiative, could not be predicted. The best known example of such a meteorite explosion was the one that levelled miles of forests in the Tunguska region of Siberia in 1908.

The blast was estimated to be equivalent to that of 12 million tons of TNT, or a 12-megaton nuclear warhead. It is believed that explosions as large as the one at Tunguska occur about once a century, while smaller ones that also mimic nuclear blasts probably take place once every few decades.

Dr. Eugene M. Shoemaker of the U.S. Geological Survey said that despite the modern tools of space surveillance, it was doubtful that there would be much advance warning that a Tunguska-type meteorite was approaching.

The discussion took place at a session on natural hazards facing the world, including meteorites, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Presiding was Dr. Joseph V. Smith of the University of Chicago, who has been calling for an International Decade for Hazard Reduction that would begin in 1990.

That effort would be aimed at reducing loss of life, particularly from catastrophes that are on a very large scale but sufficiently rare to have largely been ignored.

The plan was first suggested in 1984 by Dr. Frank Press, now president of the National Academy of Sciences.

Such catastrophes could be suf-

ficient to fill the stratosphere with particles that cut off sunlight and curb food production. Normally the world has on hand only enough food for 70 days, Dr. Smith said, while such a pall could endure two years.

He also urged the initiation of an International Decade on Stockpiling for Survival, including development of techniques for effective, economical long-term storage of grains and other foods.

Dr. Ladislav Rybach of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich said the Soviet nuclear accident at Chernobyl demonstrated how poorly prepared even so advanced a region as Europe was. Plans to cope with such disasters, whether natural or man-made, he said, must be drawn and tested.

Before World War II, Dr. Shoemaker said, only three asteroids were known whose orbits crossed that of the Earth. In large measure because of his efforts and those of his wife, Carolyn, the number now known is 57 and that is increasing steadily. Late this month a newly discovered asteroid will come within three million miles of the Earth, he said.

Dr. Alan W. Harris of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, cited the need to "educate the nations of the world" on the long-term inevitability of explosive impacts. He discussed the possibility of blowing up a comet or asteroid on a collision course with the Earth.

A one-megaton nuclear device could disintegrate a comet three miles (about 4.8 kilometres) in diameter or a stony meteorite a half-mile wide, he said. The chief problem, he added, would be putting the nuclear device on the comet or asteroid head. Once disintegrated, pieces of the object would continue in orbit as a meteor shower.

Also discussed was the possibility of placing a solar-powered "mass driver" of 100 to 150 tons on a meteorite that might be used to gradually change its orbit, specialists said. Ideally the threatening object would be identified years in advance and its orbit precisely calculated.

If all else failed, the area designated for impact would be evacuated, Dr. Harris said.

Unfortunately, the largest comets are those that are entering the inner solar system for the first time. Their orbits are not known, limiting the time for prediction.

Seeds of confusion

By Andy Crump

The international ban which controls the world's seed banks may lead to future FAO this month. Many developing countries will see this as one more step in a move to restrict their access to valuable plant genetic resources.

LONDON — Seeds and genetic materials, on which whole cash crop industries depend, are the focus of a growing, and often confusing, international debate. This month a decision is expected by the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) which will influence the outcome of that debate.

Many developing countries believe that northern agro-chemical industries have for too long had a "free ride" on the genetic resources of the South. It is widely believed that seed companies collect wild plants in the Third World, use them in breeding programmes which create new varieties, and then sell back the improved seeds at a hefty profit.

These profits are protected, in some Northern countries, by legislation which allows seed companies to obtain patents or copyrights — a form of legal ownership — on the new varieties. Developing countries argue, that, as the source of the original genetic plant material (germplasm), they have a moral right to access to the new varieties.

At present the IBPGR coordinates 43 international plant gene banks. Though 21 of these banks are located in the Third World, they contain only a third of the world's banked germplasm. IBPGR's director, Trevor Williams, says that plant germplasm from the banks is "freely available", yet he admits that the U.S. recently prohibited banked seeds from being exported.

Several varieties of maize and bean seeds developed in Nicaragua, but stored elsewhere due to lack of facilities in Nicaragua, found their way into an American gene bank in Colorado. According to the International Organisation of Consumer Unions, the trade embargo which the U.S. declared on Nicaragua in 1985 included the Nicaraguan seeds.

Two years ago, at an FAO meeting, the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources was adopted. Put forward by a group of Third World countries, the resolution proposed that germplasm, including patented seeds produced by biotechnology companies, should be freely available to all. The motion was passed with only the United

States strenuously opposing it. But purely national considerations are increasingly seen to dominate the seeds argument. Many countries, in both the North and the South, are commercially heavily reliant on specific varieties of plants, and seek to prevent the free exchange of the genetic material involved.

Ethiopia for example, prohibits the export of coffee germplasm, while Taiwan severely restricts the export of the genetic material from which its sugarcane is derived. India virtually bans the export of black pepper and turmeric germplasm. Each developing country has to determine whether the balance of its interest lies with an open, or a more restrictive, international seed transfer regime.

Brazil, formerly a supporter of the resolution, is now voicing doubts over its implementation. A similar change of heart was expressed by India, Argentina, Canada and some Scandinavian countries at an FAO meeting last November.

Once again the U.S. argued strongly against free access to seeds. According to the director of the American Seed Trade Federation, plants are adapted by seed companies mainly to suit specific localised conditions. Exports constitute only 6 per cent of U.S. seed sales revenue, he maintains, though this amounts to \$300 million.

In 1984, FAO set up a Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Many Third World nations are in favour of the commission taking control of the IBPGR. But last May it was revealed that IBPGR was considering withdrawal from FAO. Widespread opposition to the move led the board to defer its decision.

American authorities are said to favour moving the board to Washington, while the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has had talks with the board on a possible move to Switzerland.

IBPGR's final decision should be forthcoming this month. Should the board decide to leave FAO, there are many in developing countries who will feel that the chances for a regime of free transfer of plant genetic materials will have been substantially reduced — Earthscan.

Wall Street dampened by insider trading charge

By Richard Satran
Reader

NEW YORK — At a posh Wall Street area restaurant a dozen or so brokers have met nearly every week for 14 years to swap stories, brag, complain and talk in some detail about their favourite subject, the stock market.

This week one asked: "Has what we've been doing the past 14 years been illegal as hell?"

That question has ricocheted through New York's financial district since the arrest on May 13 of Wall Street merger specialist Dennis Levine on charges related to an alleged \$12-million insider-trading scheme.

"A lot of what he's accused of are the day-to-day events down here," said a broker, who did not want to be identified.

Levine's lawyer has vigorously denied wrongdoing by his client. Levine himself has refused to talk to reporters.

The stock market had been booming earlier this year, but it levelled off, and since Levine's arrest, trading has slowed to the lightest level in months. Many risk arbitrageurs — who try to raise large sums of money to invest in companies they believe will be involved in takeovers or mergers — are worried about the implications of the Levine affair.

"Until now, the growth of the arbitrage business has been incredible," said one fund manager. "Anybody involved in the market should be aware of its (Levine case's) implications."

Wall Street mergers reached a crescendo in 1984 and 1985, representing a record two-year period.

Levine, 33, was formerly managing director for Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., a leading broker involved in hostile takeovers using high-risk financing.

According to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Levine used his confidential status as an adviser to companies on both sides of takeover battles in a secret trading operation that was wildly profitable.

But Wall Street is more concerned about the trades that the SEC was investigating which did not involve Levine's official dealings.

Levine allegedly compiled a trading record that would be the envy of any Wall Street arbitrageur by picking up merger tips from a network of sources.

Using similar information, top arbitrageurs have been pulling together funds totalling hundreds of millions of dollars to invest in mergers.

Dozens of smaller operators also prowl the street and most top brokerage concerns have units specialising in arbitrage.

"Merger speculation has been one of the major factors behind a lot of the trading activity in the bull market," said Michael Metz of stockbrokers Oppenheimer and Co. "I don't care what anyone says, it has provided an enormous amount of volume."

The impact of the investigation and how far-reaching it may be are now the stuff of Wall Street rumour and conjecture.

"There's some (negative) influence on the amount of trading from the arbitrage community," said Larry Wachtel of Prudential Bache Securities. "But I don't think I can document it."

"It would be crazy to say that a two-trillion-dollar market is being held hostage by one guy who got into trouble with a \$12-million insider deal," he said.

"People are going to be a lot more careful with the rumours they use," said Hugh Johnson of brokers First Albany. "If there are good sources, they are going to tighten up."

How Japanese companies learn and unlearn

The Japanese often blitz the world's marketplace with new consumer goods, although their planning and development can be labour-intensive. How do they do it? Nick Garnett has found some pointers from a book just published.

LONDON — One of the most challenging conundrums of commercial life is the speed at which Japanese corporations blitz the world's marketplaces with new consumer goods. How is it that rigidly structured companies with hierarchical chains of command and often labourious planning can innovate and develop new products so quickly?

At one time, the Japanese relief on a form of copying — what they euphemistically call "conversion engineering". But in the never-ending avalanche of new cars, office equipment and electrical and electronic goods, many Japanese products are now at, or not far from, the leading edge of technology and design.

A study just published which examines product development at five leading Japanese corporations reveals some clues to this seeming paradox.

Based on Fuji-Xerox's development of the FX-3500 copier, the City box car by Honda, Canon's Sure Shot camera, NEC's PC 8000 personal computer and Epson's MP-80 dot matrix printer, the study points to two dominating factors.

One is the unique structure which links the big corporation with its primary subcontractors and a myriad of tiny suppliers. The primary subcontractor acts as tutor, policeman, referee, communicator and outright bully boy among the small subcontractors on behalf of the main corporation.

Tiny subcontractors must shoulder a great deal of the product development whether they like it or not. Such a symbiotic, if ruthless, network, operating a little like the internal workings of a single company but relieving the main contractor of much of the overheads, is as much a part of product development in Japan as

it is of mass manufacturing.

The second factor is the use of product development teams working almost completely outside the normal structure of the corporation. Such teams, membership of and performance in which can make or break a career, operate to rather broadly-defined goals and use more production, sales and marketing people than research and development staff.

Most subcontractors are completely dependent on the main corporation for which they subcontract and they are frequently driven by the primary subcontractors beyond what they would normally accept as reasonable. They risk losing the work, and presumably going out of business, if they do not meet the required pace on competent development.

The formalised nature of Japanese supplier networks is reflected in that of Fuji-Xerox. One of its primary subcontractors, Toritsu Kogyo, employs 50 people and itself uses 77 secondary subcontractors, most with fewer than 10 employees and all within walking distance of Toritsu Kogyo's plant.

The small subcontractors differentiate themselves based on skills such as metal grinding, pressing or vacuum forming and on the products they handle. The six secondary suppliers in pressing, for example, might each handle a different-size product. These secondary subcontractors develop a high level of competence in problem-solving and are used by Fuji and Toritsu Kogyo as task forces in product development. Some 90 per cent of the parts of the copier used during test production were manufactured by subcontractors.

A separate group of six subcontractors specialises almost exclusively on product development. All of these suppliers work as a team with few, if any, written contracts but with a large volume of shared information and a common feeling of shared dependence on the fortunes of Fuji, particularly in tough trading conditions. "Unreasonable demands are easier to swallow during wartime than peacetime," one contractor is quoted as saying ruefully. Almost all subcontracting companies are owned by men with engineering backgrounds.

As important as the supplier network, if not more so, is the makeup and application of the project teams within the main corporation whose name appears on the product.

The authors point to a number of characteristics which tend to mark out these teams from those typically used in European and North American companies, although the Japanese style has its limitations and handicaps.

Members of a Japanese project team are usually handpicked by senior management and given a wide degree of freedom. The Honda team worked with almost no brief except to produce a small energy-efficient car which would sell in large numbers. Average age of the team was 27.

In all cases, the volume of information passed between departments was very high despite some absurd geographical difficulties. During the City's development, 2,000 visits were made between production engineering and product development, two departments based 300 miles apart.

One of the most pronounced characteristics of all the Japanese teams was that they deliberately delayed making decisions on reducing the options on a new product design. In the jargon of product development "variety reduction" is only undertaken at the last minute to take advantage of the latest state of the market into which the product is being sold.

The authors also point to the levels of tension deliberately induced in these teams by senior management, the encouragement given to production staff to help with market research and the identifying of successful team members who would then be brought into project teams for the next generation of products.

Liking the project team to the supplier network is done from the off by bringing the suppliers' engineers into the main company's production plants right from the start of a new product's development.

All of this carries penalties. By keeping product options open to the last minute and encouraging different departments to overlap during product development members of project teams in Japan are often required to work up to 100 hours a week during the peak of the development cycle. Sixty hours a week is common at other times.

A strong element of elitism is also fostered by and within these teams and presumably resented by those outside the teams. "You weren't even considered human at that time if you weren't somehow associated with the AE-1," says one of the Canon Sure Shot team members, referring to the company's previous model.

It might also be said that many U.S. companies also use autonomous project teams and that West German industry with a much more authoritarian company approach has been supremely successful in product development although at a much slower pace of new product introduction than the Japanese.

Managing the New Product Development Process: How Japanese companies learn and unlearn. Ken-ichi Imai, Kiyuho Nonaka, Hirotaka Takeuchi, published by The University Alliance, Harvard Business School Press. Available through Harper and Row, price \$32.95.

Portugal embarrassed by pay dispute with players

LISBON (R) — Portugal's government Tuesday attacked protest over pay by the country's World Cup players as unsporting, ill-timed and undignified and appealed to them to assume their responsibilities as sportsmen and professionals.

The 22 players are demanding improved daily allowances and bonuses for World Cup matches and on Sunday refused to play a practice game in Monterrey to back their claims. The surprise dispute has been front-page news in the Portuguese press.

A telex sent by Education and Culture Minister Joao De Deus Pinheiro to the team headquarters in Saltillo said the position of the players "had neither dignified Portugal's name nor shown understanding for the affection, joy and excitement with which the Portuguese backed them."

It appealed to the players to assume their responsibilities "as sportsmen, professionals and above all as Portuguese."

Portuguese President Mario

Soares has also sent a telegram to the squad, appealing for common sense and dialogue.

"As there is at stake the prestige of Portugal... in one of the greatest sporting events in the world, I appeal to you to let serenity, common sense and the spirit of dialogue prevail over intemperance, to put an end to a situation which the Portuguese people do not understand," Soares said.

Portuguese Football Federation President Silva Resende arrived Monday night in Mexico City where he was due to attend an International Football Federation (FIFA) meeting this week.

Resende refused a demand from the players that he should

immediately travel to Saltillo and repeated the Portuguese Football Federation's position that the allowances and bonuses had been agreed by the players before they left for Mexico.

Portugal's daily press expressed regret and dismay at the dispute, which they have dubbed "the revolt of the infants." The Portuguese squad have been nicknamed "infantes" (princes) after the navigator princes of Portugal's long maritime history.

"There is something decidedly rotten in our football," the state-owned *Diario De Noticias* said in an editorial Tuesday.

"There is still time at least for things to be seen with a minimum of common sense and lucidity, so we can rapidly stop being exposed to what must be the unfattering curiosity of the sporting world," the paper added.

Portugal play their first match against England on June 3 and also face Morocco and Poland in Group F.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Hugo Sanchez completes workout

TOLUCA, Mexico (R) — Real Madrid striker Hugo Sanchez completed his first full training session with the Mexican World Cup squad since injuring a knee during the UEFA Cup final earlier this month. Mexico's team doctor said all players, including Sanchez, had come through the two-hour work-out in perfect shape, and there is growing optimism that he will be fit to play in the first Group B game with Belgium on June 3. The host country's fans believe the striker's full recovery is essential if they are to have any chance of winning the tournament, which begins on Saturday. Thousands of local fans turned out for the training session.

Valdano hits out at match scheduling

MEXICO CITY (R) — World Cup football players, in intensive training for the tournament which kicks off on Saturday, have begun to realise what they are up against in the heat, altitude and smog of central Mexico. Argentinian striker Jorge Valdano, who plays in the Spanish League with champions Real Madrid, was the latest star to join the chorus of protests against having to play at midday under Mexico's blistering sun. "It's really criminal to have to play at noon, in temperatures of over 30 centigrade. The organisers never consulted the players and as a result, what the fans are going to see here, frankly, is a devalued World Cup."

"And why do we have to play at midday? Purely because of some people's commercial interests," he added.

'Tourista' strikes Belgian players

TOLUCA, Mexico (AP) — Several Belgian World Cup players reported intestinal problems Monday and star striker Erwin Vandenberg took antibiotics to combat the ailment, team physician Walter Ridant said. Another striker, Nicco Claessen, was recovering from the illness known as "tourista," which often strikes visitors to Mexico, and planned to train later Monday. Ridant said six other players were slightly affected but would be able to train.

Portugal's chef promises victory

SALTILLO, Mexico (R) — Portugal will win the World Cup because they are the best-fed team in the tournament. That's the modest prediction of Portuguese team chef Evaristo Alvaro, who has become something of a TV personality with spontaneous cooking lessons given to TV reporters visiting the Portuguese training camp in this northern Mexican town. "Portugal are going to be world champions and I will have played my part because the players were strong and well-fed," the amiable, chubby 45-year-old told reporters. Alvaro gave TV viewers lessons on how to cook a huge pot of rice for 22 hungry footballers. "Easy on the salt, you've got to watch the salt," he said.

Algeria tunes its offence

By Richard Boudreaux
Associated Press Writer

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP) — Algeria's World Cup soccer players slammed free kicks, short passes and corner shots at the net Monday in a 90-minute practice of their attack.

The barrage of balls kept goalkeeper Nacereddine Drid diving and tumbling like an acrobat on the pitch at Guadalajara's Jalisco club.

But so many shots sailed over the crossbar that part of a chain link fence behind it came unhinged from a fence post.

"We're working more on our offensive tactics than our defence, because good offence is more difficult in this level of competition," head coach Rabah Saadane said after the training session.

Algeria is the Group D underdog against Brazil, Spain and Northern Ireland. All three teams have the trademark common to most of the 24 World Cup contenders: an obsession with defence.

Saadane brought his players together just a month ago. They spent 15 days training in the Swiss Alps to acclimatise themselves to Guadalajara's 1,560-metre altitude and, since their arrival here last week, appear to have adjusted

to its subtropical heat.

A reserve goalkeeper, Hadi Larbi, suffered a bruised knee Monday and will miss two days of training, but all 21 other players looked fit.

"This stage of our training is to adapt to the climate and work on technique," the coach said. "The players have adapted faster than I expected but, technically, there is still work to be done."

The squad is built around the same players who stunned Chile and West Germany, an eventual finalist, in Algeria's World Cup debut in Spain four years ago. Despite those first-round victories, Algeria failed to advance.

"In 1982 we had the advantage of being unknown," Saadane said. "Now the other teams are wary of us, but we have the advantage of more experience. This time our goal is to reach the second round."

To do that, he said, Algeria must win its June 3 opening match against Northern Ireland, possibly the weakest of its rivals.

Algerian centre-forward Rachid Harkouk, a 10-year veteran of the English League and a former club teammate of several Irish players, is confident Algeria can win.

"Their game is to apply constant defensive pressure to force mistakes, but it won't work in this heat," the 30-year-old Harkouk said. "Our kind of one-touch football, with quick combinations, can break their defence. We are good technicians."

A tight race for Formula One title

By Ian Kersey
Reuter

FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium — Brazilian Ayrton Senna put himself back in charge of the world drivers' championship at Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix but he admits it will be tough remaining there.

"I think it is going to be hard to keep first place," said Senna after finishing second, worth six vital title points, to triumphant Briton Nigel Mansell.

"Whoever has the best equipment — chassis and engine — will win this season," added the gifted and totally dedicated Lotus driver.

Mansell, who almost ran out of fuel en route to the third Formula One triumph of his career — the same total as Senna, is now back in the hunt for honours.

"We have two important races to come," he said. "I wish Ayrton all the best, but now there are five drivers all in with a shout in the championship."

Mansell and Senna have not been the best of friends since a first lap tangle in Australia at the

end of last season was followed by a repeat performance in Brazil at the start of this year's campaign. Mansell was scathingly critical of Senna's tactics both times.

But mutual respect replaced the harsh words after their splendid duel at last month's Spanish Grand Prix, and it gained a good deal more ground Sunday.

Mansell heads for next month's two races in North America third in the table, seven points behind Senna.

Reigning champion Alain Prost of France is sandwiched between them, two points behind the Brazilian. He finished sixth in his McLaren at SPA Francorchamps, worth one point, scant reward for his tremendous performance.

Prost dropped to 20th place after being hit in a multiple first corner tangle but treated the crowd to a sparkling exhibition of high speed driving and perfect car control as he rocketed through the field.

Brazilian Nelson Piquet managed to avoid the incident and led unchallenged for 17 laps until his Williams expired with engine trouble. The retirement relegated

him from third to fourth overall but still well in contention.

Finland's Keke Rosberg completes the leading quintet. He too went out because his McLaren blew its engine but could come bouncing back when the Formula One circus takes to the streets of Detroit on June 22.

Rosberg won there last year and is renowned for his aggressive driving qualities in the close confines of such tracks.

Before Detroit comes Montreal on June 15 — where Ferrari pair Michele Alboreto of Italy and Sweden's Stefan Johansson produced a one-two finish in 1985. Johansson was third and Alboreto fourth Sunday, a timely change of fortune for the Italian team.

Mansell dedicated his latest victory to Italian Elio De Angelis, fatally injured in a test session crash in France 12 days ago.

"We were team mates for a long time. I learned a lot from him in the early days," he said.

De Angelis' death has stunned Formula One and the sport is now ready to impose limits on the massive power developed by the current crop of engines.

Celtics stop Houston in game one

BOSTON, Massachusetts (R) — The Boston Celtics made experience pay off Monday as they roared away in the second half to beat the young Houston Rockets 112-100 in the first game of the National Basketball Association's best-of-seven championship finals.

The turning point came with a little less than five minutes remaining in the third quarter when Nigerian superstar 23-year-old Akeem Oluajuwon of the Rockets assessed his fifth foul and was pulled from the game.

The Celtics, who were leading by five at the time of Oluajuwon's departure, ran the lead up to 15 by the end of the quarter and as high as 21 in the fourth quarter.

Oluajuwon returned in the fourth quarter but by then the Celtics, showing the experience which allowed them to compile a league-best 67-15 record during the regular season, had established control.

The Celtics have won 15 championships, more than any other team. This year's starters are all veterans of the club which won in 1984 and reached the finals last year.

The defence was the key for the Celtics as they anticipated Houston's passes, converting them into steals, and closed down the Rocket's inside game.

The Celtics' big front line scored an evenly distributed 85 points — 23 for centre Robert Parish, 21 each for forwards Kevin McHale and Larry Bird and 10 for back-up Bill Walton. The Boston backcourt attack was just as balanced as guards Dennis Johnson and Danny Ainge scored 19 and 18 respectively.

For Houston, Oluajuwon finished with 33-points but the other half of the "Twin Towers," 2.24 metre Ralph Sampson, 25, missed nearly 20-minutes of the first half because of foul troubles of his own. Even after his return at the second half he was ineffective and ended up with just two points.

Early in the game, the Celtics betrayed signs of rust after an eight-day layoff. They had rushed through three previous rounds of the playoffs with just one defeat in twelve games.

The upstart Rockets had reached the finals by shocking the defending champions Los Angeles Lakers four games to one in the Western Conference finals.

Botham row takes generational tone

By Marcus Eliason
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — The world of cricket, which still likes to think of itself as the repository of ancient English virtues, has been caught on a sticky wicket by a drugs scandal involving one of its finest players.

The drama centres on 30-year-old Ian Botham, the strapping, outspoken superstar of English cricket, who caused much chinking on port and cigars recently by admitting he had occasionally smoked marijuana.

Since then, the lurid Fleet Street headlines, thunderous editorials and aggrieved reactions from cricket's official custodians have divided the country into two camps: those who say Botham should be drummed out of competitive cricket and those who see him as a victim of British society's regular paroxysms of finger-pointing moral outrage.

The affair reflects how deeply the real world is intruding into the gentlemanly realm of cricket. The game that once gloried in its amateurism and standards of fair play has become a politicised, big-money sport in which a drug scandal perhaps was inevitable.

Botham's broad-shouldered, flamboyant style, his contempt for the media and his self-promotion — he is one of the only cricketers to employ a personal manager — make him a big target.

His troubles had been building up for more than two years.

In March 1984 *The Mail* on Sunday, a London tabloid weekly, reported that Botham smoked pot. Botham denied it and sued the paper. Police subsequently raided his house and found a marijuana cigarette. He was fined \$150.

Last Sunday, the first three pages of *The Mail* on Sunday filled with an extraordinary "confession" by Botham that he had indeed "at various times in the past smoked pot."

He wrote that he did it to relieve the pressures of stardom. He also claimed he had shared joints with police officers at parties and even with a vicar in church. He wouldn't do it again, he wrote, and hoped his admission would be a warning to youngsters to stay off drugs.

At the same time, he dropped his lawsuit against the paper.

Now the battle lines were drawn. The Test and County Cricket Board, which governs the game in England, announced Botham would be dropped from two matches against India this summer. Saying his admissions could "bring cricket into dis-

repute," it summoned him to a disciplinary committee that will decide his long-term fate on Thursday.

"He has set a bad example," said the *Daily Today*. "not just because he has smoked pot and tied, but because he has also shown himself to be selfish, arrogant and undisciplined, both on and off the field."

"He must not be allowed to get away with it," warned Denis Compton, 68, an England cricket hero of yesteryear.

In the conservative *Daily Telegraph*, W.F. Deedes blamed the scandal on a general breakdown of discipline, pointing to England's dismal showing last winter in the West Indies, when it was trounced in all five international matches.

"Botham," Deedes wrote, "is a divisive character. Any decision made about him leads to cheers from one quarter, jeers from another."

The cheers too were plentiful, primarily from the liberal *Daily Guardian*, which said the affair had generated much "pompous, often hypocritical rubbish."

A mong Botham's contemporaries, England batsman Graham Gooch declared, "What he does off the field is his own business." His county team, Somerset, said it stood by him.

Navratilova wins, criticises press

PARIS (AP) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova captured her opening-round match at the French Open tennis championships Tuesday, then took a swipe at the American media.

"I wish someone had asked me about it," she said, referring to her crying after losing to Steffi Graf in the final of a women's tournament in Berlin eight days ago.

"The German press got it right, but the American press just wrote what they thought."

"I don't cry over losing a match," the world's top-ranked player said. "You didn't see me cry last year when I lost in the (French Open) final to Chris (Evert Lloyd), did you?"

The reason for the tears, she said, was that her family was not together.

"My parents were watching the match on television in Prague because they weren't allowed to go to Berlin. My sister, Jana, watched on television in Bonn because she wasn't allowed to go to Berlin."

"My whole family was within 300 miles of each other and we couldn't be together."

A native of Czechoslovakia, Navratilova defected during the U.S. Open in 1975. She became an American citizen in 1981 and will return to Prague in July for the first time since her defection to play Federation Cup for the United States.

Asked about her reaction on her return to Czechoslovakia, she said:

"I can't comment on that because I really don't know. I haven't done it before."

Seeking her third French Open singles title, Navratilova defeated Italy's Sandra Cecchini 6-3, 6-3 to advance to the second round.

"I enjoyed playing finally," she said. "I was like a horse that's been in the gate for 10 minutes."

"I'm glad I finally got to play."

After the two traded service breaks in the third and fourth games of the first set, Navratilova ripped off the next three games, breaking Cecchini at 30 in the sixth game, to take a 5-2 lead. The Italian right-hander, who lost in the quarterfinals of the French Open to Navratilova last year, then held her own service at 30 before the left-hander who now makes her home in Fort Worth, Texas, closed out the set at 15, the only point she lost coming on a double-fault.

Cecchini started the second set off with an ace, her first of five in the match, but dropped her serve after the two battled through five deuces.

Navratilova won the match 6-3, 6-3.

Team doctor Naylor Lasmar said Zico's participation in Sunday's match against Spain had not been completely ruled out although he might play for only some of the game.

If Zico does not play the full 90 minutes, Socrates, who was team captain in the 1982 finals in Spain, is expected to stand in for him.

Socrates showed some irritation Monday that Santana was delaying announcing the side to face Spain.

"It is important to know who is starting the game well in advance," he said. "You must prepare yourself psychologically for every

Zico trains as Socrates complains

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (R) — Brazilian soccer star Zico, ruled out of his team's opening World Cup clash by coach Tele Santana Sunday, appeared for training Monday, raising hopes that he might take part after all.

Zico, who has a recurring left knee injury, limited his workout to shooting and taking penalties.

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"It is important to know who is starting the game well in advance," he said. "You must prepare yourself psychologically for every

All other coaches are being as mysterious as Alfred Hitchcock

but why must Santana do the same?" asked Socrates while acknowledging he must have his reasons for keeping the selection secret.

Midfield veteran Falcao said he was not concerned about the possibility of being left out.

"The coach has said nothing to any of us," Falcao said. "I'm sure he knows what he is doing. I think I'm in good physical and technical shape but I will not be angry if he decides not to play me. Brazil is more important."

As Santana pondered the makeup of his side, the foreign press found themselves banned from some of Brazil's training sessions in a dispute over access given to Brazilian reporters at other training camps.

Lucas Neto, Brazil's press spokesman, said: "We were advised that Brazilian journalists have not been able to get to the training camps of many other teams. Therefore our team officials decided to do likewise."

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The Water Authority announces that the date for submitting proposals for the Salinity Control Data Acquisition System, contract 25/86, has been extended to June 3, 1986, addendum no. 4 is now available from the tender dept of the WAJ main office in Amman.
Eng. MS. Kilani
President

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ANC vows to attack white civilians in South Africa

HARARE (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla group has vowed to attack white civilians, including children, in South Africa.

ANC representative to Zimbabwe Freddie Mzimba told the Herald newspaper in an interview published Tuesday that Pretoria had shown its disregard for life by killing defenceless civilians and that his organisation would now do the same.

"The white parents must now also go to the graveyard. Our people will now march into the white areas and their schools to reciprocate what the whites are doing to our people," he said.

"The international community, we know, will cry that we are killing innocent people but what about our children?" Mr. Mzimba asked.

In the past, the ANC, the main black guerrilla movement determined to topple South Africa's white-dominated government, has said its campaign was directed only at the military establishment.

Mr. Mzimba said: "Whoever dies (now) does so in crossfire. Our people have buried enough of their relatives and whites have to follow suit."

He said the upsurge in resistance among blacks in South Africa, where more than 1,500 people have died in the past 27 months in violence stemming from grievances over Pretoria's apartheid racial segregation policies, demanded that the ANC toughen its position or risk losing support.

Mr. Mzimba said last week's South African military raids on Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana had incensed ANC fighters as the attacks were launched while a Commonwealth peace mission was visiting South Africa.

The seven-member "eminent persons" group, which cut short its tour after the raids, is trying to bring about dialogue between the ANC and South Africa's white rulers.

"What will the eminent persons say to the ANC (about the raids) when after all we gave them our blessing?" asked the ANC official.

"The international community must support us now in whatever we are going to do," Mr. Mzimba added.

Meanwhile, three blacks died and security forces fired rifles, shotguns and pistols to disperse crowds as protests flared overnight in black South African townships, police said Tuesday.

A youth was burned to death at Langa township near Uitenhage in the eastern Cape and police found a woman's charred body in nearby New Brighton, a spokesman said.

A man was killed when police and soldiers fired rifles and shotguns to disperse a protesting crowd at Chesterville near Durban, he added.

In other unrest, police fired pistols to drive off blacks trying to rob private vehicle at Kaitshong near Johannesburg, while in nearby Kwatema a crowd set a man on fire, seriously injuring him.

Two white men working near new Brighton had shots fired at them and a railway policeman was hit in the leg when shots were fired at a police patrol in the same area.

More than 1,550 people have died in 27 months of unabating anti-government unrest. Two thirds of them, according to government figures, were victims of security force action.

Reporters saw local government workers sifting Tuesday through wreckage in the devastated satellite camps of Cape Town's Crossroads shanty town, where at least 33 people died in battles between radicals and vigilantes last week.

As troops and police patrolled perimeter roads in armoured personnel carriers, the workers piled up the remains of what had been homes for some 30,000 people — including zinc sheeting, the squatters' most prized building material.

A few families huddled around fires watched from the other side of the barbed wire fence now ringing the sandy wasteland.

On Monday squatter leaders at the more isolated KTC camp won a temporary court injunction restraining vigilantes, police and soldiers from making or allowing unlawful attack on them.

The leaders said they feared "the destruction of homes has been part of a systematic plan and that KTC is the next township that will be attacked."

Carrington hits at bickering in NATO

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington warned Tuesday that transatlantic bickering between the United States and some of its European allies could damage NATO's strength and cohesion.

Lord Carrington also called for greater political consultation among the 16 allies over action outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) traditional area of activity such as the April 15 U.S. air strike against Libya.

In a speech prepared for delivery in Montreal two days before a NATO foreign ministers' meeting and released by his office here, he said the concern of those attending the gathering in Halifax, Canada, would be to maintain the strength and cohesion of the alliance.

This, he said, would be affected "if some people in the United States and some in Western Europe continue to indulge in what I might call megaphone cartoonery — Eurotisms in one set of papers and American cowboys in the other."

The word "Eurotisms" is a derivative term applied by U.S. hardliners to describe those European allies who were critical of the Libyan attack and other controversial aspects of U.S. policy.

Lord Carrington intentionally echoed his own phrase "megaphone diplomacy" which he coined in April, 1983, to describe loud statements of position by East and West instead of effective dialogue.

Lord Carrington said the U.S. strike on Libya had been clearly an "out-of-area" action that did not involve the NATO alliance.

But he implied the alliance would suffer if there was not more active political consultation among the allies about "out-of-area" crises.

"The ability of the alliance to do effectively what it has to do in the area could be affected by the response — or lack of response — on the part of individual allies to what is happening outside," he said.

"There is no doubt that the alliance suffers when it is seen to fail to do what is asked of it. If governments cannot agree on the remedy... then it is unlikely that anyone else will," Lord Carrington said.

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Amnesty International marks 25th anniversary

LONDON (R) — The human rights organisation Amnesty International marked its 25th anniversary Wednesday, still facing a massive task in trying to stamp out political arrests, state torture and execution.

A statement from the London-based organisation hailed great achievements in bringing the issue of human rights to the forefront of world attention, but added:

"The movement for human rights, including Amnesty International, is young and poor. The state machinery for torturing, killing or imprisoning people suspected of some unproven threat has a long tradition and vast resources."

Amnesty still reckons that one in every three countries systematically tortures its citizens. It believes half the countries in the world are currently holding prisoners of conscience.

Amnesty was established in response to a newspaper article by British lawyer Peter Benenson, appealing for public support for a one year campaign on behalf of political prisoners.

Today, it claims half a million members and supporters in over 150 countries and territories, many of them writing letters on behalf of individual prisoners with others on permanent standby to launch instant appeals for detainees under threat.

The organisation was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. Despite its impressive growth, Amnesty officials acknowledge that they still have no real idea of the extent of human rights abuses worldwide.

"We don't know whether the human rights situation has improved or deteriorated in the past 25 years. We do know that we cannot see into all the dark corners of the world's prisons," said Amnesty press attaché Laulich.

"Governments invest enormous resources into covering up human rights abuses but more and more information is flowing all the time," he told Reuters.

In an article marking the anniversary, Benenson reflected somewhat gloomily on the contrast in the international climate between 1961 and today.

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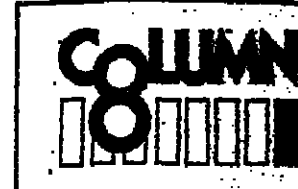
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Today, it claims half a million members and supporters in over 150 countries and territories, many of them writing letters on behalf of individual prisoners with others on permanent standby to launch instant appeals for detainees under threat.

The organisation was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. Despite its impressive growth, Amnesty officials acknowledge that they still have no real idea of the extent of human rights abuses worldwide.

"We don't know whether the human rights situation has improved or deteriorated in the past 25 years. We do know that we cannot see into all the dark corners of the world's prisons," said Amnesty press attaché Laulich.

"Governments invest enormous resources into covering up human rights abuses but more and more information is flowing all the time," he told Reuters.



Soviet stars to sing for Chernobyl

MOSCOW (R) — Top Soviet pop stars are giving a concert at a Moscow stadium on Friday to raise money for relief work connected to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, theatre officials said Tuesday.

The country's best-known singer, Alla Pugachova, and rock band Art-Pop are among seven acts scheduled to appear at the unprecedented show at the northern Moscow Olympic Stadium, an arena built for the 1980 games.

No public announcement has been made about the concert, called "account number 904," but news of it has spread by word of mouth among young Muscovites.

Theatre officials were providing access for the Western press and they said foreign ambassadors were being invited. The account number refers to a national fund set up last week for citizens to contribute to relief work for the Chernobyl disaster, which forced the evacuation of 92,000 people from the area and killed 19 people.

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Taiwan landslide toll reaches 29

TAIPEI (R) — Rescue workers Tuesday temporarily halted a search for victims of a landslide in a remote mountain gorge as police raised the death toll to 29.

About 130 marines and 120 other rescue workers who have been digging through mud and debris called off the search because of health fears.

Police said digging would resume Wednesday after the area had been disinfected.

They said 29 people, mostly college students and youth group members, were killed when rocks dislodged by earthquakes crashed into the Tai Chi Gorge in central Taiwan on Sunday.

One survivor told the China Times newspaper Tuesday that most of those killed were posing for a group photograph when boulders suddenly started raining down. She said she walked about two hours to reach help.

Relatives had waited all night at the entrance to the canyon, which was shrouded in mist and rain, as rescue workers carried out bodies on their backs. Police said 11 men and 18 women had died.

The prime minister is expected to dissolve the lower house and call elections for 18 months ahead of schedule in tandem with a scheduled election for the less powerful upper house, government sources said.

The most likely date for the dual election is July 6.

Political analysts said Mr. Miyazawa, a former foreign minister and one of three strong contenders to succeed Mr. Nakasone, feared a probable electoral victory could stretch Mr. Nakasone's second term as president of the faction-ridden LDP.

As part of the deal to hold an early election, Mr. Nakasone's foes had sought to extract a promise from him that he would not extend his term but he has made no public commitment.

However, party sources said Mr. Nakasone had conceded that a supplementary government budget might be necessary to prime the economy. Mr. Miyazawa has been a vocal critic of Mr. Nakasone's tight-fisted economic policies.

The other two contenders to succeed Mr. Nakasone as president of the LDP, which bans re-election for a third term, are Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita.

An early election would allow the public a new vote following the redistribution of lower house seats last week.

The LDP, which won a resounding victory in the only other dual election in 1980, had a setback in a 1983 poll and now has 258 seats in the 511-member lower house.

But eight of these seats are held by the New Liberal Club.

Meanwhile one of Marcos' chief ministers praised President Corason Aquino on Monday for including the former ruling party on a panel writing a new Philippine constitution.

Presidential spokeswoman Alice Villadolid said Mrs. Aquino had accepted former Labour Minister Blas Ople's nomination of himself and four former ruling party assemblymen to the constitutional commission.

Government television reported that the pro-Marcos minority religious group Iglesia Ni Cristo had declined a seat on the 50-member commission.

Mrs. Villadolid said late Monday that she did not know of any decision by the group or to whom the sixth seat would go if the church refused it.

Mrs. Aquino on Sunday allotted the church one seat and the former ruling party five, filling the body with a mixed group of 44 labour activists, lawyers, Catholic clergymen, educators, peasant leaders and others.

"The fact that President Aquino does welcome opposition participation even on this symbolic scale can open up new potential for reconciliation and can be a small step towards developing a strong and plural democratic system to the constitution," Mr. Ople told reporters.

Mrs. Aquino had said she was assigning the six slots "in the spirit of reconciliation."

The commission, to begin on June 2, will be headed by Vice President Salvador Laurel.

Japan takes steps towards July polls

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese cabinet voted Tuesday to convene a special parliamentary session on June 2, paving the way for Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to call an early general election.

Mr. Nakasone won agreement for the session Monday from a hard-line rival in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Kiichi Miyazawa.

The prime minister is expected to dissolve the lower house and call elections for 18 months ahead of schedule in tandem with a scheduled election for the less powerful upper house, government sources said.

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